



## **Henrietta Brazal – Appalachia CARES**

“To transform people’s lives so they get inspired to reach their full potential.” This is my passion and life mission!

My name is Henrietta Brazal and I bring with me two decades of corporate human resource practice. I brand myself as a “change catalyst” and “prime mover,” having been involved in the cultural transformation of various financial institutions in the Philippines.

Deciding to take a detour in my career in 2009 led me to a different path -- away from the glamor of the corporate world, and into a more meaningful and enriching life. It’s called “service.”

This new journey started when I took the role of Lead Facilitator for an international nonprofit organization for their JobStart Philippines Life Skills Training project in 2014. Our goal was to equip 467 underprivileged but talented young people with life skills to prepare them for active employment and become productive members of society. Spending time to teach them these skills, listen to their life stories, dreams and aspirations -- despite the trauma, pain and sacrifices they’ve endured at a young age -- opened my eyes to the realities in life.

It stirred a great desire for me to get involved and do something to uplift the lives of the less fortunate people in society. So when the Appalachia CARES program accepted my application to become an AmeriCorps member in November 2015, I knew that I was turning my passion and life mission into a reality.

Through my service placement with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley, I am able to work directly with people who want to make a difference in the lives of children, serve my community and do my part to build a better country. My role has reinforced my commitment to service. It also gives me the opportunity to build a reservoir of talents that can ignite greatness and shape great futures for the kids that the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley serve.

On a personal note, this role has molded my character. It has enabled me to be more sensitive to other people’s needs, be grateful for the simple and everyday blessings that come my way, and truly value the noble mission and great impact of community service.

Moving forward, when I end my service contract in November 2016, I plan to pursue further studies in Human Resources and get my HR certification, go back to my corporate work but continue to serve the community as an AmeriCorps volunteer.